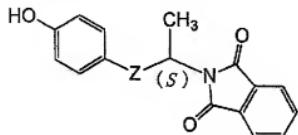


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A compound represented by the general formula:



wherein the carbon atom marked with (S) represents a carbon atom in S configuration; Z is the group represented by the formula:



or the formula:



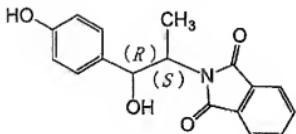
wherein the carbon atom marked with (R) represents a carbon atom in R configuration.

2. (canceled).

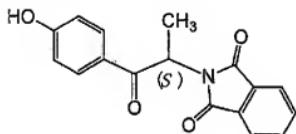
3. (canceled).

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4. (previously presented): A method to produce a compound represented by the formula:

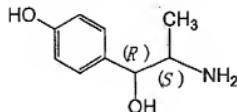


wherein the carbon atom marked with (*R*) represents a carbon atom in *R* configuration, and the carbon atom marked (*S*) represents a carbon atom in *S* configuration, which comprises catalytic hydrogenating a compound represented by the following formula in the presence of a hydrogenation catalyst:



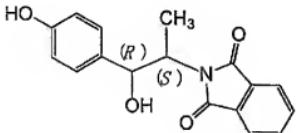
wherein a carbon atom marked with (*S*) has the same meaning as defined above.

5. (previously presented): A method to produce a compound represented by the formula:



wherein the carbon atom marked with (*R*) represents a carbon atom in *R* configuration, and the carbon atom marked (*S*) represents a carbon atom in *S* configuration, which comprises removing the phthaloyl group of a compound represented by the formula:

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wherein the carbon atoms marked with (R) and (S) have the same meanings as defined above.

6. (previously presented): The method according to claim 4, wherein said hydrogenation catalyst is palladium catalyst or nickel catalyst.

7. (previously presented): The method according to claim 5, wherein the removing of the phthaloyl group is by treatment with a primary amine, hydrazine anhydrate or a hydrate thereof.